

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, www.fs.usda.gov/colville

Contact: Franklin Pemberton, 509.684.7177

October 1, 2015

LeClerc Grazing Management Plan Available for Review

NEWPORT, WASH. (October 1, 2015) The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the LeClerc Creek Grazing Allotment Management Plan, which would authorize continued livestock grazing and range improvements on the Newport-Sullivan Lake Districts is available for public review and comment. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official.

The analysis area is located approximately 30 miles north of Newport, Washington and encompasses 23,412 acres of land within the LeClerc Creek sub-watershed. Primary access is via Fourth of July Creek Road (NFS Road 1932), East Branch LeClerc Road (NFS Road 1934), Middle Branch LeClerc Road (NFS Road 1935), and West Branch LeClerc (NFS Road 1933) road.

The proposed action (Preferred Alternative) authorizes continued livestock grazing at current levels using a combination of range improvements and adaptive management strategies to meet or move toward meeting Forest Plan Standards and to attain resource specific desired conditions. Some of those improvements include improved boundary fencing; improved pasture fencing; cattle guard installation; alter pasture rotations; removing unnecessary fencing and improving and hardening water access for livestock. Other important changes include reducing livestock in areas near rivers and streams; fencing livestock out of certain streamside vegetation; increased frequency of fence maintenance; streambank replanting and stabilization.

The plan also includes monitoring components designed for early detection of resource conditions that would trigger management changes. Triggers would be developed to identify when a specific threshold is about to be reached and cattle need to be moved or other adaptive management strategies used.

Public comments will be used to help refine the analysis and to inform the final decision on this project. The 45-day comment period ends on November 16, 2015. Comments should provide specific points and supporting reasons related to the plan to aid the district in reaching a decision.

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Comments may be submitted to Gayne Sears, Newport-Sullivan Lake District Ranger by mail, email, in person or by phone. For more information on this project, or on how to get copies of the project please contact Michelle Paduani at 509-447-7361 or michellepaduani@fs.fed.us or visit us on line at www.fs.usda.gov/colville

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